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The Gazette (Montreal, Quebec, Canada) · Fri, Mar 28, 1980 · Page 46

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YOU BE THE CRITIC
The column where readers have their say

Fans maintain Denver is great

I do hope John Denver has not seen your morning review (March 21) by Juan Rodriguez. I would be totally ashamed of my city and its only English newspaper if he has.

We have never been fans of Denver, but we were given tickets to last night's performance. We left admiring the man for his hard work and really good entertainment. As a matter of fact, he made me like him. He gave a good honest performance without an intermission.

Your review is an insult to his fans and his clean entertainment. I like all types of music. I like his type too. What's wrong with the mountains, the joys of nature and clean living?

I'm totally ashamed of you, *The Gazette*, but guess I'm stuck with your writers such as Rodriguez, having no competition in this city any more — shame!

HAZEL SHOEMAKER
Dollard des Ormeaux

• • •

I wonder — could Juan Rodriguez have been at the same John Denver show as I was last night? From reading his column in today's *Gazette*, I doubt it.

He had nothing but snide remarks to make about a performance that was much more deserving.

I found the show totally enjoyable — clear and heartwarming.

Too bad. Rodriguez missed it.

LAURA BATT
LaSalle

• • •

It is difficult to believe that the John Denver concert which Juan Rodriguez reviewed was the same Denver concert which I attended the night before.

The concert described by Rodriguez was, in his words, "monotonous and mechanical." The concert which I enjoyed was masterful and magnificent. The applause which Rodriguez felt was "stiff," I found to be warm and very enthusiastic — and rightfully so.

Denver gave a concert which for me exceeded my high expectations.

With no flashy gimmicks, with only his guitar, his clear, mellow voice and his honest, sensitive music, he held an appreciative audience of thousands in a state of enchantment for close to 2½ hours. He made me remember why I have loved his singing for years, despite the continuing attacks of critics who delight in jeering at anyone who is unashamed of sentiment.

Those who attend Denver concerts are people who love his music and who find the strength of his ideals inspiring and refreshing. Those who find him "flat" and "monotonous," as Rodriguez does, should stay home and refrain from imposing their opinions on others.

I suppose anyone who makes a life's work out of ridiculing and belittling people with talent is bound to be repelled by a singer who sings honestly and openly of the beauties of nature and the highest of human sentiments.

CATHY BOYD
Dorval

• • •

After reading the review of the John Denver concert at the Montreal Forum, I have come to the conclusion that the ultimate goal of a critic is to slaughter a performance disregarding the delight and response of a crowd.

I question the following:

How can a performance be mechanical in the true sense of the word when the performer takes the time to respond to various comments from the crowd or simply takes the time to talk?

Or how about the audience participation with foot stomping and hand clapping?

And what about the hush that fell over the audience as we awaited the next song?

Or the applause at the beginning, during and at the end of a song?

If it had not been for the statement that a group of people yelled out "We love you" I would have questioned as to whether the critic had actually been there.

Too often are performers on such high ego trips that they rarely take the time to listen to what the crowd has to say and to acknowledge them. All in all I feel the concert was on a one-to-one level which is pretty good considering there were 13,000 people there.

But then again that's just my opinion. I guess the critic of *The Gazette* would classify me as "a country girl on a rocky mountain high."

JUDY COLLINS
Verdun

• • •

Take that pen away from Juan Rodriguez posthaste. He's predictably pompous and terribly boring. John Denver's performance was undeserving of such drivel.

DIANA LAFLEUR
Westmount

• • •

John Denver's magnetic performance at the Forum Thursday night reached out and touched all who saw him.

He performed solidly for more than two hours, without a break, delivering polished, spell-binding, exciting entertainment.

Juan Rodriguez was obviously oblivious to the tears in the eyes of many in the audience who witnessed this "sleepwalk" performance, as Rodriguez so unfairly terms it. His review did not reflect in any way the feelings of the 13,000 people there. The review was an injustice and insult to this talented singer and his backup musicians.

JOAN WHYTOCK
Dollard des Ormeaux

The Gazette welcomes your letters on all aspects of the world of entertainment — and any comments on our critics. Send them to: You Be The Critic, Entertainment Dept., The Gazette, P.O. Box 6036, Montreal.

WEEKEND GUIDE

BEST BETS

DANCE

Les Grands Ballets Canadiens ends its spring season tonight and tomorrow with four new works ranging from a recreated 1920s modern dance piece *Soaring* to *Les Valses*, a creation by British-born Ronald Hynd that made its debut last night at Place des Arts. Paul Taylor and Lar Lubovitch are the U.S. choreographers represented.

Quebec Danse, a showcase of Quebecois choreographic talent sponsored by the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts, concludes its run with works by Jean-Pierre Perreault and Jeanne Renaud.

Linde Howe-Beck

THEATRE

There are just two days left — tonight and Saturday — to catch Lanford Wilson's **5th of July**, a high-quality student production at Monument National; David Mamet's **American Buffalo**, another high-quality student production at McGill Players; the flashback musical **Blue Champagne** at the Saidye Bronfman Centre; and Cheryl Cashman's disarming and delightful one-woman show, **Turning Thirty** at the Centaur.

If none of those strike your fancy, how about David French's tickling **Jitters** at Centaur? It's not a great production, but it is a funny script.

In French, there's the worthwile turmoil of Sartre's **Huis Clos** at Cafe de la Place, hilarity in **Victor ou les enfants au pouvoir** at Theatre du Nouveau Monde, and the theatre des Voyagements' funny and moving production of **Appelez-moi Stephane**.

Maureen Peterson

MUSIC

The performance which the **Saarbrucken Symphony Orchestra** will give in the Salle Claude Champagne on Saturday evening will be their only one in Canada, and it will conclude their present tour of North America under the musical direction of Hans Zender (they played in Carnegie Hall on Thursday evening). The program, which is to begin at 8.30 p.m., will consist of the overture to Wagner's *Flying Dutchman*, the *Linz Symphony*, and the *Bassoon Concerto in B flat*, both by Mozart, and Schumann's *Symphony No. 4*.

Because **Yehudi Menuhin** is to be the principal attraction of the next program in the series by the **McGill Chamber Orchestra**, the concert has been moved forward to this Sunday and, exceptionally, it will take place in Salle Wilfrid-Pelletier instead of the Maisonneuve Theatre. Menuhin will be heard in the group of violin concertos that make up Vivaldi's *The Seasons*.

Eric McLean

FILMS

The Easter season brings to Montreal a truly magnificent film that will enchant adults as much as it will delight children, **The Black Stallion**, opening today at the York cinema. Based on a series of 1940s' children's books, it's the story of two shipwreck survivors — a boy and a magnificent stallion — with the action ranging from a desert island to an American race track.

If it all sounds old-hat, you're mistaken, for director Carroll Ballard and photographer Caleb Deschanel create one of the most soaring visual experiences to hit the screen ever, while the performers display a low-key charm that is never saccharine. Special honors go to Mickey Rooney, who received an Oscar nomination for his portrayal of an aging horse trainer. It's a film designed to captivate the child in all of us.

Another film that's good, old-fashioned entertainment — though it's set amidst the campus turmoils of the 1960s — is the Montreal-made tearjerker **Gabrielle**, opening in a French-language version today at the Greenfield, Laval, Parisien Rivoli and Versailles cinemas. The English original will be opening later this year.

The movie stars Vince Van Patten as a young American come to McGill to play hockey, who falls in love with a Quebecoise art student, played by the lovely Claire Pimpare. The film has comedy, romance and an emotion-packed ending that had advance audiences hauling out the hankies — while Pimpare's performance should bring American studios running to sign up a major new talent.

Dave Chenoweth

Theatre

Aleola, by Gaetan Charlebois, at Theatre du Rideau Vert, 4664 St. Denis St. Tonight and tomorrow, 8 p.m.; Sun., 7 p.m. Ends April 26. 844-1793.

Chameleon Theatre, 7141 Sherbrooke St. **Tonight:** Woody Allen's *God*, Pinter's *Night* and Joanna Russ' *Window Dressing*. **Tomorrow:** Israel Horovitz's *Hopscotch*, J. Michael Yates' *In Search of the Tse-Tse Fly* and *A Touch of Mime*. **Tomorrow:** *Hank's Night Out* and *The Death of Bessie Smith*. All shows at 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. Admission $1. 482-0789.

Le Tartuffe, by Moliere, at Le Tritorium, 255 Ontario St. Tonight and tomorrow, 8:30 p.m. Ends tomorrow. 849-2285.

5th of July, by Lanford Wilson, at the Monument National, 1182 St. Lawrence Blvd. Tonight and tomorrow, 8 p.m. Ends tomorrow. Free admission. 842-7954.

The Pirates of Penzance, by Gilbert and Sullivan, at Salle Emile Legault in CEGEP St. Laurent, 613 St. Croix Blvd. Tonight and tomorrow, 8 p.m. Ends tomorrow. 663-5595.

Gin Game, French adaptation by Albert Millaire, at Theatre Port-Royal, PdA. Tonight, 8:30 p.m.; tomorrow, 5 p.m. and 9 p.m. Ends April 30. 842-2112.

Casse-Tete, performed by Mime Omnibus at Theatre de Quat' Sous, 100 Pine Ave. Tonight through Sun., 8 p.m. Ends April 20. 845-7278.

You're a Good Man Charlie Brown, at the John XXIII Theatre, 1301 Dawson Ave. in Dorval. Tonight and tomorrow, 8:30 p.m. Ends tomorrow. Admission $3. 636-1711.

Turning Thirty, starring Cheryl Cashman, at the Centaur Theatre, 453 St. Francois-Xavier St. Tonight and tomorrow, 8:30 p.m.; Sun., 7:30 p.m. Ends Sun. 288-3161.

American Buffalo, by David Mamet, at the McGill Players Theatre, 3480 McTavish St. Tonight through Sun., 8:30 p.m. Ends Sun. 392-8926.

L'Amour des trois oranges, by Alexandre Arnoux, at Theatre Denise-Pelletier, 4353 St. Catherine St. Ends May 6. For showtimes, phone 253-8974.

Little Mary Sunshine, by Rick Besoyan, at the Phoenix Theatre, 1858 De Maisonneuve Blvd. Tonight through Sun., 8:30 p.m. Ends April 6. For reservations, 931-0787.

Huis clos, by Jean-Paul Sartre, at Cafe de la Place. Tonight and tomorrow, 7:30 p.m. and 11 p.m. Ends April 26. 842-2141.

Jitters, by David French, at the Centaur Theatre, 453 St. Francois-Xavier St. in Old Montreal. Tonight, 8 p.m.; tomorrow, 2 p.m. and 8 p.m.; Sun., 7 p.m. Ends April 13. 288-3161.

Parce-que c'est la nuit, at the Theatre Experimentale des Femmes, 320 Notre Dame St. Tonight and tomorrow, 9 p.m. No reservations. Ends April 12.

En plein ventre, by Louise Ladouceur and Celine Beaudoin, at L'Atelier Continu, 1220 Laurier Ave. Tonight through Sun., 8:30 p.m. Ends April 20. For reservations, 272-2655.

A qui le p'tit coeur apres neuf heures et demie?, by Maryse Pelletier, at Theatre d'Aujourd' hui, 1297 Papineau St. Tonight and tomorrow, 8:30 p.m.; Sun., 3 p.m. and 8:30 p.m. Ends April 12. 523-1211.

Appelez-moi Stephane, by Louis Saia and Claude Meunier, at Theatre des Voyagements, 5145 St. Laurent Blvd. Tonight, 8:30 p.m.; tomorrow, 5 p.m. and 8:30 p.m. Ends April 26. For reservations, 274-7985.

Blue Champagne, written and directed by Ken John Grant, at the Saidye Bronfman Centre, 5170 Cote St. Catherine Rd. Tomorrow, 7 p.m. and 9:30 p.m.; Sun., 7:30 p.m. Ends Sun. For reservations, 739-7944.

Something Different, a comedy in two acts by Carl Reiner, at the Actors Studio, 7050 Victoria Ave. Tonight and tomorrow, 8:30 p.m. Ends April 26. Tickets $4.50, students $3.50, senior citizens $2. For reservations, 342-4591.

Victor ou les enfants au pouvoir, by Roger Vitrac, at Theatre du Noveau Monde, 84 St. Catherine St. Tonight, 8 p.m.; tomorrow, 5 p.m. and 9 p.m.; Sun., 7 p.m. Ends April 5. For reservations, 861-0563.

Aleola
See 'Theatre'

Out of Town

The Miser, by Moliere, at the Centennial Theatre, Bishop's University. Tonight and tomorrow, 8:30 p.m. Box office, 567-5058.

Clubs

Stitches at Maxwell's, 2060 Alymer St. **Tonight through Sun.:** Steve Brinder. Showtimes: Tonight and tomorrow, 9 p.m. and midnight; Sun., 9 p.m. Admission $3.50. 842-8656.

Yuk Yuk's, 2025 Drummond St. **Tonight through Sun.:** Larry Horowitz and Jim McAleese. Admission: tonight and tomorrow, $5; Sun., $3.50. 845-0797.

Broadway Live, 1459 St. Alexander St. **Tonight through Sun.:** Blue Peter. 843-3033.

Le Preztel, 2112 Clark St. **Tonight and tomorrow:** Dutch Mason Blues Band, admission $3.50. **Sun.:** Lightspeed, free. 844-5272.

Maples Inn, 121 Lakeshore Rd. in Pointe Claire. **Tonight and tomorrow:** The Flyers, $2.50. **Sun.:** The Downchild Blues Band, $2.50. 694-2479.

Gringos, 1471 Crescent St. **Sun.:** Daphne Lindmar. 288-2651.

Friar's Pub, 1445 Crescent St. **Tonight through Sun.:** Bedrock. 849-6086.

Rising Sun, 286 St. Catherine St. **Tonight through Sun.:** Woody Shaw. 861-0657.

Rainbow Bar & Grill, 1430 Stanley St. **Tonight and tomorrow:** The Backbeats. 849-6262.

The Mustache, 1445 Closse St. **Tonight through Sun.:** Whizz Kidds. 931-2575.

The Yellow Door, 3625 Alymer St. **Tonight and tomorrow:** Doug Young, Linda Morrison and Karen Young. 392-4947.

L'Air du Temps, 191 St. Paul St. **Tonight and tomorrow:** Steve Hall Quintet. **Sun.:** Moog. 842-2003.

F. M. Club, 1236 Drummond St. **Tonight through Sun.:** The Victor E. Band. 866-6492.

Le Foyer, 102 St. Antoine St. **Tonight and tomorrow:** Geraldine Hunt. 844-3888.

Brasserie Le Grand Bock, 893 St. Catherine St. **Tonight and tomorrow:** The Nobs. 842-6562.

Chez Dumas, En Haut, 286 St. Catherine St. **Tonight and tomorrow:** The Mighty Jay Blues Band. **Sun.:** Michel Seguin. 845-5723.

Bar Emery, Chez Dumas, 331 Emery St. **Tonight and tomorrow:** Tourville. 849-9007.

Longest Yard, 1238 Bishop St. **Sun.:** John Guthrie, starting 9 p.m. 866-4260.

Station 10, 2071 St. Catherine St. **Tomorrow:** Bacteria. 934-0484.

Le Portage, Hotel Bonaventure. **Tonight and tomorrow:** Sammy Delbrocco. 878-2332.

The C Note, 1253 University St. **Tonight through Sun.:** Kenny Barron. 871-8197.

Le Stage, corner of Decarie and Jean Talon. **Tonight and tomorrow:** Kenny Summers. 731-7771.

Cock 'n' Bull, 1944 St. Catherine St. **Tonight and tomorrow:** Harvest. **Sun.:** The Mountain City Dixieland Band. 933-4556.

Rockhead's, 1252 St. Antoine St. **Tonight and tomorrow:** Nelson Symonds Trio. 861-3243.

Yehudi Menuhin
See 'Music' Sun.:

FRIDAY

Music

McGill Faculty of Music presents the McGill Trombone and Tuba Studio, Montreal Symphony Low Brass, Mount Royal Brass Quintet and the Tuba Quartet in works by Hindemith, Handel, Ross, Tull, Arnold, Bruckner, Gaybe, David and Scheidt, 8 p.m., at the Pollack Concert Hall, 555 Sherbrooke St. Tickets $4. 392-8224.

U of M Faculty of Music presents a violin recital of works by Kabalevsky, Brahms, Schumann, Vienjawsky and Bruch, 8:30 p.m., at 2375 Cote St. Catherine Rd., room 1020. 343-6479.

Classical Indian Music with Vasant Rai, 8 p.m., in the D.B. Clarke Theatre, 1455 De Maisonneuve Blvd. Call 879-7219 for free tickets.

Organist Helene Dugal performs works by Bach, Liszt and Franck, 12:30 p.m., at the Church of St. James the Apostle, corner of St. Catherine and Bishop Sts. 849-7577.

The Lakeshore Chamber Music Society will hold its fifth concert of the 20th anniversary season, presenting the Classical Duo of Montreal in works by Bach, Guiliani, Villa-Lobos and more, 8:15 p.m., in the Adair Hall, 24 Maple Ave. in Ste. Anne de Bellvue.

Lectures

Professor Zvi Ankori speaks on *Jerusalem Past and Present: Portrait of a Historic City*, 8 p.m., at the Saidye Bronfman Centre, 5170 Cote St. Catherine Rd. 739-2301.

How To Recognize a Poem When You See One, with speaker Stanley Fish, 8:30 p.m., at the F.C. Smith Auditorium, 7141 Sherbrooke St. 482-0320, ext. 534.

Mahmood Ayoub speaks on *Islam and the West: For Better Mutual Understanding*, 8 p.m., at the Monchanin Cross-Cultural Centre, 4917 St. Urbain St. 288-7229.

Repertory

Cinema V (489-5559) Magic Lantern Cycle, 7; And Now For Something Completely Different, 7:15; Rust Never Sleeps, 9:15; Rocky Horror Picture Show, 9:45; Texas Chainsaw Massacre, midnight.

Cinema Repertoire (861-2996) Norma Rae, 7; Quadrophenia, 9:30; Dawn of the Dead, midnight.

Outremont (277-4145) Show on stage featuring Les Freres Brosse, with L'Orchestre Sympathique, and the film, The Who: The Kids Are Alright, 8 p.m.

Cinema Quebecoise (844-8734) Bringing Up Baby, 7:30; Le Marchand des Quatre Saisons, 9:30.

Cinema Parallele (843-4725) Coeur de Verre, 7:30, 9:30.

SATURDAY

Music

Saarbrucken Symphony, in their only performance in Canada, perform works by Wagner, Mozart and Schumann, 8:30 p.m., at Salle Claude Champagne, 200 Vincent d'Indy Ave. 866-1081.

Maneige performs at 8:30 p.m. in Cinema Outremont, 1248 Bernard St. Tickets $6.50 and $7.50. 277-4145.

Flautist Samuel Baron and clarinettist Sherman Friedland will perform Arthur Honegger's *Rhapsody* and Ernest Bloch's *Concertino*. Baron will also perform solo in works by Debussy, Varese, Villa-Lobos, Jolievt and Hans Stieber, 8:30 p.m., in the Loyola Chapel, 7141 Sherbrooke St.

La Chorale de l'UQAM performs works by Durufle, Stravinsky, Charles-Amador Martin and Pierick Houdy, 8:30 p.m., at the Mary Queen of the World Cathedral on Dorchester Blvd. 282-6876.

Ukrainian Concert — The Burlaka Choir performs for the first time in Montreal, 7:30 p.m., at the Plateau Hall, 3700 Calixa - Lavall'ee. Also featured will be The Marunczak Dance Ensemble and U. Dowhaniuk.

Lecture

Mollie Hunter, children's literature writer, speaks on *One Writer's View*, 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., at the Beaconsfield Library, 303 Beaconsfield Blvd. 697-4662.

Repertory

Cinema V (489-5559) Time After Time, 7; Life of Brian, 7:15; Woodstock, 9:15; Dona Flor and Her Two Husbands, 9:45; Fiona on Fire, midnight.

Cinema Repertoire (861-2996) Breaking Away, 5; Seduction of Mimi, 7:15; A Clockwork Orange, 9:30; Led Zeppelin: The Song Remains the Same, midnight.

Cinemateque Quebecoise (844-8734) Une Femme Une Famille, 7:30; A Touch of Evil, 9:30.

Conservatory of Cinematographic Art (879-4349) Les Servantes du Bon Dieu, 7; L'Arrache-Coeur, 9.

Seville (932-1139) Norma Rae, 7; Rocky Horror Picture Show, 9:30; Flesh Gordon, midnight.

Outremont (277-4145) Show on Stage featuring Maneige, 8:30.

Cinema Parallele (843-4725) Coeur de Verre, 7:30, 9:30.

SUNDAY

Music

McGill Chamber Orchestra, with violinist Yehudi Menuhin, gives an all-Vivaldi program, 8:30 p.m., at Salle Wilfrid-Pelletier, PdA. Alexander Brott will conduct. Tickets, $8 to $16, on sale at the PdA box office. 842-2112.

Choral Evensong — The Choir of the Church of St. James the Apostle will perform works by Willan, Mundy, Ayleward and Vittoria, 4 p.m., at the Church, 1439 St. Catherine St. 849-7577.

Pianists Louise-Philippe Pelletier and Eugene Plawutsky will conclude their series of piano works for four hands from the Debussy period, 11 a.m., at the Piano Nobile of Place des Arts. Tickets $1.

Repertory

Cinema V (489-5559) To Kill A Mockingbird, 7; Led Zeppelin: The Song Remains the Same, 7:15; Spellbound, 9:15; Time After Time, 9:45.

Cinema Repertoire (861-2996) Duck You Sucker, 5; Luna, 7:15; Citizen Kane, 9:30.

Seville (932-1139) Seduction of Joe Tynan, 4:30; The Deer Hunter, 6:30; Luna, 9:45.

Outremont (277-4145) Show for children, Chocolat, 4:30; Hair, 7; Reve de singe, 9:30.

Cinema Parallele (843-4725) Free films for children, 1:30; Coeur de Verre, 3.

Dance

Les Grands Ballets Canadiens perform *Les Valses, Soaring, Exsultate, Jubilate* and *Cloven Kingdom*, tonight and tomorrow, 8:30 p.m., at Salle Wilfrid-Pelletier. Tickets, $6 to $12.50, on sale at the PdA box office. 842-2112.

Dance Quebec, with Jeanne Renaud and J. Pierre Perreault, tomorrow, 2 p.m., at 57 Prince Arthur St. E. 285-1600.

Face-Off — Movements in three periods with Andre Farkas, Michel Bonneau, Catpoto and Howard Abrams, tomorrow in English and Sun. in French, at Vehicule Art Gallery, 307 St. Catherine St. For times, phone 844-9623.

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